Armed assailants torch petrol pump on Dera-Tank road

By Our Correspondent

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Unknown armed men set a petrol pump on fire near Potta area on Dera-Tank road here on Wednesday night, causing extensive damage. No loss of life was, however, reported.

According to police, the attackers stormed the fuel station, tied up the staff with ropes, and then set the premises ablaze before fleeing the scene.

The petrol pump was operated by the Wana Welfare Association (WAWA), a well-known charitable organisation from South Waziristan.

The WAWA has been actively working for the past two decades to promote education among underprivileged children in Waziristan and is widely recognized for its social welfare initiatives.

Upon receiving information about the incident, the Rescue 1122 teams rushed to the spot and successfully brought the fire under control.

The blaze caused severe damage to the petrol pump infrastructure.

The police have started an investigation into the incident, while the motive behind the attack remains unknown.

Afghans asked to leave Kohat under govt repatriation plan

By Our Correspondent

KOHAT: At a jirga held with Afghan maliks and elders here on Thursady, the district police conveyed to them that all illegal residents must leave the country voluntarily within the set deadline to avoid law and order situation.

ASP headquarters Baydar Bakhsh while addressing them made it clear that they had been given last chance of repatriation under an unambiguous definite policy, stressing that the government writ would be strictly implemented.

He said after the final date legal action would be taken against them by arresting them, however all conveyance and documentation help will be provided to them.

He added that every cooperation would be extended to them so that the whole process was completed in a disciplined, coordinated and peaceful manner.

He said they could re-visit Pakistan after getting a visa from their country.

Meanwhile, the district administration Kohat launched strict measures to prevent encroachments in and around the Afghan refugee camps.

To curb illegal activities, Section 144 has been imposed on state and provincial properties, prohibiting encroachments.

The move comes as part of efforts to facilitate the orderly repatriation of undocumented residents, deputy commissioner Rahimullah said.

Authorities have emphasised that ownership, trespass or unauthorised use of land within the camps is strictly banned.

The administration warned that any violation will trigger immediate legal action, underscoring that public assets and the rule of law would be rigorously protected.

The citizens have also been urged to cooperate to ensure the repatriation process is conducted efficiently in a transparent manner.

VENDORS set a handcart on fire in protest against relocation of vegetable market in Charsadda. — Dawn

Cabinet approves special committee to probe 2024 poll 'rigging'

CM insists military actions being carried out in KP without govt, PA's consent

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sohail Afridi on Thursday said a special committee of the provincial assembly was being formedto investigate the alleged rigging in the Feb 8, 2024, general elections in the province.

Chairing a cabinet meeting here, the chief minister said that the committee would call the provincial government's employees, who performed duties in the Feb 8 polls, and quiz about electoral "rigging", according to an official statement.

He also said that the decision to withdraw the Action in Aid of Civil Power Regulation, 2011, had already been taken but the process was being delayed due to the Centre's failure to provide details of terrorist detention centres.

Mr Afridi said the lack of details regarding detained terrorists could create security concerns after the withdrawal of the Action in Aid of Civil Power Regulations.

He termed the federal government's move to declare political parties proscribed under the Anti-Terrorism Act as wrong and said that the list of political workers included in Schedule Four should be reviewed afresh to provide relief.

"Security forces are our protectors and we are proud of them, but grievances are directed at our own people," he said.

The CM said one one hand, terrorist attacks killed civilians but on the other, civilians were martyred as collateral damage.

He said legislation was needed regarding civilian casualties caused by drone and aerial attacks.

"Military operations in KP are being carried out without the approval of the provincial assembly and provincial government, whereas it is essential to take all stakeholders, tribal elders and political and religious leadership into confidence in order to establish sustainable peace in the province," he said.

Mr Afridi said though 22 major operations and 14,000 intelligence-based operations had been carried out in the province, terrorism had not been eliminated.

He said the Radio Pakistan mob attack was a conspiracy against the PTI and that a special committee of the provincial assembly, constituted to investigate the incident, had held a meeting.

He said that discriminatory and unfair treatment was being meted out to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which was unacceptable.

During the cabinet meeting, Mr Afridi condemned the "solitary confinement" of PTI founder Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi in Adiala Jail and the denial of meetings with them.

He said Mr Imran had been kept in solitary confinement for more than 90 days and was not being allowed to meet his family members and friends.

The CM said Bushra Bibi had also been kept in isolation and was not being allowed to meet her family members, which was a grave violation of basic human rights.

He said that not providing Mr Imran and his wife with winter protection items, was an act of cruelty and that the fake government was breaking all records of authoritarianism.

Mr Afridi said that the federation was not providing the promised funds for internally displaced persons and that the provincial government had so far spent Rs7.5 billion from its own resources.

He said that after the announcement of operations, people were displaced and had to leave the province, placing a heavy financial burden on provincial resources.

"Until now, Rs10 billion has been spent, and there is a risk of further losses amounting to Rs100 billion," he said.

The CM said due to decisions taken behind closed doors, GDP had fallen from 6.1 per cent to 2-3 per cent, while public debt had increased from Rs43,000 billion to Rs80,000 billion.

Briefing on the cabinet's key decisions, special assistant to the chief minister for information and public relations Shafi Jan said that the cabinet approved introduction of artificial intelligence education in schools, promotion of positive youth activities, improvement of judicial infrastructure, prison reforms, legislative initiatives and approval of funds for development schemes and relief activities.

He said that the cabinet approved Rs2,684 million for improving facilities in prisons and strengthening security arrangements, adding allocated funds would be utilized to address the shortage of basic facilities in various prisons and for the procurement of modern security equipment.

The cabinet also approved the KP Education Testing and Evaluation Agency Bill, 2025, and the KP Minerals Development and Management Company Bill, 2025.

According to the special assistant, the latter bill would provide a formal legal framework to the Minerals Development and Management Company operating in the province.

The meeting approved a Rs32 million grant-in-aid for the construction of science and computer laboratories at the Atfal Academy, Wana besides Rs28 million as cash awards to encourage athletes who secured medals in the 35th National Games.

For the rehabilitation of people affected by the August 2025 floods, the cabinet approved a relief package worth Rs1.136 billion. Under the Fata University Project, the cabinet approved the establishment of the Mines and Minerals Value Addition Hub at a cost of Rs2.5 billion.

Furthermore, Rs300 million was approved under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Education Foundation Scholarship Endowment Fund for students from the merged tribal districts.

The cabinet approved the allocation of two kanals of land for the establishment of a Nadra office in Kohat and sanctioned an increase in the cost of a development scheme of the Kohat Institute of Medical Sciences.

For the improvement of the justice system, the cabinet approved Rs298 million for judicial infrastructure projects besides the inclusion of artificial intelligence courses in the computer science curriculum for students from grades 6-12.

It approved the draft memorandum of understanding to declare Peshawar and New York as sister cities, a move expected to promote cooperation in cultural, trade, economic, educational and governance sectors.

The cabinet approved the provision of 198 kanals of land for the establishment of two graveyards in Peshawar.

Police book organisers of Dubair sit-in

MANSEHRA: The Lower Kohistan police have booked 39 elders and organisers of Dubair sit-in, which has continued for the past two months, under Section 7 of Pakistan's Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997.

"We have booked all 39 accused, who took law into their hands and diverted the water flow of the Dubair Khawar hydropower project, suspending its power production for almost the last two months," a police official said.

The sit-in, which began nearly two months ago at the Dubair hydropower dam, is still ongoing. According to police, the FIR was registered after the failure of successive rounds of talks between the district administration, police and lawmakers with protesters to end the sit-in.

"Nobody can justify registration of an FIR under Anti-Terrorism Act as people have been staging a peaceful sit-in after Wapda breached all previous agreements with locals," Malik Faseeullah told a jirga held to decide its future line of action following registration of cases on Wednesday.

The jirga, which was largely attended by clerics, elders and locals, decreed to continue the sit-in for even a year until their demands were met. "Our peaceful protest has been under way for the last two consecutive months. We wouldn't divert water to the Dubair Khawar tunnel (dam) until Wapda meets our demands and issues tenders of Dubair-Ranowali road," Mr Faseeullah said.

Malik Assad, a former Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz candidate for provincial assembly, told journalists that a meeting brokered by Federal Minister Amir Muqam between the Wapda chairman and local elders Malik Misar Khan and former MNA Malik Aurangzeb earlier this month had failed to bear fruits.

"The chairman did not agree to publicly announce that World Bank had approved Rs500 million for reconstruction of the road, nor did he commit to starting its execution within a stipulated timeframe," he said.

The protesters are demanding issuance of tenders for Dubai-Ranowali road, which was washed away in the 2022 flash floods, causing massive human and infrastructure losses. — Correspondent

Two killed, three injured as rain, snow lash Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

PESHAWAR: Two displaced children from Tirah were killed and three persons received injuries in road accident when three vehicles skidded of slippery road in Khyber district as heavy rain and snowfall lashed several parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Thursday.

Sources said that in Khyber tribal district at least two children lost their lives while three persons were injured when three vehicles skidded off the road due to slippery conditions. The vehicles were on their way to Bara from Tirah.

Meteorological department said that large parts of province received rain on Thursday. In provincial capital, the rain started in the morning and continued till filing of this report; however, no casualties were reported.

Parachinar received 88 millimeter of rain over the past 24 hours. Bannu received 14 millimeter rain, Dera Ismail Khan 13mm, Peshawar 09mm, Chitral 08mm, Kalam 06mm, Takht Bai 03mm and Upper Dir 1mm. Met department also predicted rain and snowfall for several areas of province on Thursday night and Friday.

Snowfall and rainfall started late on Wednesday night and continued on Thursday in various plain and mountainous areas of South Waziristan Lower and South Waziristan Upper.

Light to moderate snowfall was reported in several high-altitude regions including Angoor Adda, Shakai, Khamrang, Raghzai, Kaniguram, Badar, Makeen, Laddha, and adjacent hilly areas.

Snowfall continued in border and mountainous areas of Mohmand district. The mountains of Elazai, Karwanda, Matai and Sheikh Baba have been covered with snow while intermittent rainfall has also been reported in lower areas.

The rain and snowfall disrupted normal life, with residents facing difficulties in carrying out daily activities due to severe cold. In remote areas, movement and transportation have also been adversely affected.

The residents of Ghalanai and its surrounding areas have been facing power outage for the past one week. The non-availability of electricity has caused serious inconvenience to people.

Rainfall accompanied by snowfall in the mountainous areas also made the weather further colder in Bajaur. The moderate rain, which started in the morning, continued throughout the day till Thursday evening.

Heavy snowfall was also reported in mountainous areas of the region including Mamund, Salarzai, Nawagai and Chmarkand.

Hill tops surrounding Landi Kotal in Khyber district received light snowfall on Thursday. The snowfall started around midday, which enveloped the Top Sar and Enzari Kandaw hilltop till evening while excessive rain lashed residential areas.

Some joy seekers rushed to the Enzari Kandaw hilltop to enjoy the season's first snowfall in Landi Kotal with most of them filming the snowfall and making videos of themselves while also playing with snowballs.

The mountainous parts of Hazara received heavy snowfall on Thursday while rain lashed the plains.

The snowfall, which began in Siren, Konsh, and Kaghan valleys of Mansehra and Spat and Kandia valleys of Kohistan, plunged the weather into extreme cold conditions.

Roads connecting villages and high-altitude areas remained blocked due to slippery conditions following the snowfall.

The rain started in parts of Mansehra, Torghar, Upper Kohistan, Lower Kohistan, and Kolai-Palas districts in the afternoon and continued intermittently throughout the day.—Dawn Report

Used phone rates to fall

Continued from Page 1

through lower duties and, potentially, lower retail prices.

Officials said the new ruling covers 62 mobile phone models across four leading brands, either through revised values or first-time valuation. They said the methodology relied on market inquiries, benchmarked against trade-in prices published on the official websites of manufacturers, including Samsung, Google and OnePlus.

The government levies multiple charges on mobile phones, including a flat Rs250 per set, 18 per cent sales tax, withholding tax, a handset levy and regulatory duties. These are calculated on the notified assessed value of each handset.

A comparison of values notified for 2026 with those issued in 2024 shows a sharp reduction in assessed values for used phones. Used iPhones recorded the steepest cuts, with declines ranging from 32pc to 81pc.

Among the biggest revisions, the assessed value of the iPhone 12 Pro fell to $155 from $280, while the iPhone 12 Pro Max was reduced to $215 from $340.

The iPhone 13 was cut to $170 from $280, the iPhone 11 Pro Max to $145 from $245, and the iPhone XS Max to $95 from $150. The iPhone X was lowered to $57 from $75.

Even newer flagship models were revised downwards, with the iPhone 13 Pro Max reduced to $295 from $430, and the iPhone 13 Pro to $225 from $360.

The department also fixed assessment values for seven newer used iPhone models. Under the new rates, the iPhone 15 Pro Max has been valued at $460, the iPhone 15 Pro at $390, the iPhone 15 Plus at $320, and the iPhone 15 at $310.

For the iPhone 14 lineup, the iPhone 14 Pro Max has been assessed at $360, the iPhone 14 Pro at $290, and the iPhone 14 at $210.

Samsung, Google, OnePlus

By contrast, valuations for other major brands were largely unchanged. Only a marginal adjustment was recorded for the Samsung Galaxy S23 Ultra, which was assessed at $255, reflecting a modest decline.

Other Samsung models were valued at lower but steady levels, with the Galaxy S23 Plus assessed at $160, the Galaxy S23 at $140, and the Galaxy S22 Ultra 5G at $160. Older models included the Galaxy S21 Plus 5G at $69, the Galaxy S21 5G at $50, the Galaxy S20 Plus at $46, and the Galaxy S20 at $41.

For Google Pixel devices, the ruling fixed values across newer and older models, including the Pixel 9 Pro XL at $260, the Pixel 9 Pro at $195, and the Pixel 9 at $150. The Pixel 8 Pro was valued at $188 and the Pixel 8 at $98.

A similar pattern was reported for OnePlus phones, with the OnePlus 12 assessed at $184 and the OnePlus 12R at $105, while older models were valued at $92 for the OnePlus 11, $65 for the OnePlus 10 Pro, and $60 for the OnePlus 10T.

According to the ruling, the notified values will apply to used mobile phones imported in commercial quantities without packaging and accessories, and will form the basis for the assessment of duties and taxes at the time of import. The values will apply regardless of the specific grade or condition of the phones.

It further stipulates that devices must have been activated at least six months prior to export to Pakistan. Importers will be required to declare the activation period, which will be verified by assessing officers during clearance.

Customs officials said the Directorate General of Customs Valuation held consultations with stakeholders on Aug 12, Sept 26 and Dec 15 last year. Import data covering a 90-day period was collected and analysed, while market inquiries were carried out to determine revised values.

For brands and models imported commercially but not listed in the ruling, importers have been advised to determine assessable values under Sections 25(5) and 25(6) of the Customs Act, 1969.